List of Current Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 18 (Cancelled).

19. (Currently Amended) A method for maintaining a production installation in the technology of automation and process control, having a plurality of field devices , whereby each field device determines or controls a process variable, ~~which~~ whereby said field devices are partly, or completely, connected over a data bus with a control system, comprising the steps of:

electronically registering the field devices in a manufacturer database with a manufacturer-specific identification and manufacturer-specific information relevant for the maintaining of the production installation, whereby the manufacturer-specific information is only accessible to the manufacturer and whereby the manufacturer-specific information contains information about spare-parts or information when the production of each of the field devices will end;

electronically registering the field devices in a customer database with a customer-specific identification and customer-specific information, whereby the customer-specific information is only accessible to the customer; and

electronically querying the two databases on the basis of maintenance criteria , whereby the query determines the optimal stock of the spare parts or consumable materials inventory for the chosen maintenance strategy.

20. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:

the manufacturer-specific identification is the serial number of the field device .

21. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:
the customer-specific identification is the tag number of the field device .

22. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:
the maintenance criteria include corrective maintenance, replacement or preventive maintenance.

23. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:
the database querying yields a maintenance plan.

24. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein:
the maintenance plan is stored in a maintenance database and every separate point of the maintenance plan is confirmed or modified by the customer before the storing.

25. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:
the manufacturer database also includes foreign devices of other manufacturers.

26. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein:
the manufacturer database, or portions thereof, come from Internet databases.

27. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein :
the time required for the maintenance of the field devices is stored in said manufacturer database and from this information, combined with the maintenance plan, projected costs of maintenance work are calculated.

28. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:
already-experienced, actual expenses of the maintenance work for the field devices are stored in said customer database and a projected versus actual cost

comparison is produced for the maintenance plan.

Claim 29 (Cancelled).

30. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:

the customer database is supplemented and modified by the operator itself of the production installation, via Internet access.

31. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein:

the operator receives automatically and via Internet a maintenance plan adapted to a changed inventory of field devices or changed requirements for the maintenance strategy.

32. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:

device type managers (DTMs) are stored in said manufacturer database (HG-DB) and are included in the maintenance plan in execution specifications intended for the maintenance personnel.

33. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein:

electronic aids used for the maintenance are automatically adjusted by the maintenance plan.

34. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:

the maintenance plan represents the control file for asset management systems.

35. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 34, wherein:

control files for various asset management systems are produced by controlling the device type managers [(DTMs)].

36. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:

a plurality of manufacturers support manufacturer databases [[(HG-DB)]] in the Internet and, for each device in an installation, the appropriate link to the corresponding Internet address of the manufacturer database [[(HG-DB)]] is contained in the device type manager [[(DTM - e.g. FDT Tool)]] of the particular device.